

HOUSE RESOLUTION 116

By Vincent

A RESOLUTION to salute and commend Ronnie Raper for  
selfless heroism in the face of great danger.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure the well-being of their fellow citizens, courageously risking their lives to save the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, over the years, thousands of Tennesseans have committed themselves to this spirit of gallantry and self-sacrifice; the inherent bravery expressed by these individuals is worthy of the utmost commendation of this legislative body; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Raper has acted with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for heroism as a citizen of the City of Dayton and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, April 7, 2003, Ronnie Raper learned that Melinda Andrews had fallen into Richland Creek and was being swept away by the swirling, icy waters; and

WHEREAS, arriving just in time and plunging into the dangerous water, heedless of his own safety, Ronnie Raper swam quickly to the stricken Melinda Andrews, pulled her onto a concrete piling, and waited for emergency first responders to arrive on the scene; after they had been thrown a rope, Ronnie Raper walked back to the shore with Melinda as the firefighters reeled them to safety; and

WHEREAS, his dramatic rescue complete, Ronnie Raper modestly claimed, "Any person in this world would have done what I did. There's no hero here"; and

WHEREAS, when he is not busy saving lives, Ronnie Raper serves as a City of Dayton building inspector and Chairman of the Rhea County Commission, positions in which he has deservingly received many accolades for his excellent work; and

WHEREAS, a consummate humanitarian and paragon of selflessness, Ronnie Raper exemplifies all that is noble and good about Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor Mr. Raper for his courage and valor in this emergency; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Ronnie Raper of Dayton for heroism and gallantry in the face of extreme personal danger.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.